

theologians. They were strenuous about theology,  
 but they let  
 other things alone. The boards of trustees are  
 almost always  
 made up of " practical men," and if their faiths,  
 ideas, and  
 prejudices are to make the norm of education, the  
 schools will  
 turn out boys and girls compressed to that  
 pattern. There is  
 no wickedness in any disinterested and sincere  
 opinion. That is  
 what we all pretend to admit, but there are very  
 few of us who  
 really act by it. We seem likely to have orthodox  
 history (espe-  
 cially of our own country), political science,  
 political econ-  
 omy, and sociology before long.<sup>1</sup> It will be defined  
 by school  
 boards who are party politicians. As fast as  
 physics, chemistry,  
 geology, biology, bookkeeping, and the rest come  
 into conflict  
 with interests, and put forth results which have  
 a pecuniary  
 effect (which is sure to happen in the not remote  
 future), then  
 the popular orthodoxy will be extended to them,  
 and it will be  
 enforced as " democratic." The reason is because  
 there will be  
 a desire that children shall be taught just that  
 one thing which  
 is "right" in the view and interest of those in  
 control, and noth-  
 ing else. That is exactly the view which the  
 ecclesiastics  
 formerly took when they had control. Mathematics  
 is the only  
 discipline which could be taught under that rule.  
 As to other  
 subjects we do not know the " right answers,"  
 speaking univer-  
 sally and for all time. We only know how things  
 look now on  
 our best study, and that is all we can teach. In  
 fact, this is the  
 reason why the orthodox answers of the school  
 boards and trus-  
 tees are mischievous. They teach that there are  
 absolute and  
 universal facts of knowledge, whereas we ought to  
 teach that all  
 our knowledge is subject to unlimited verification

and revision.  
The men turned out under the former system,  
and the latter,  
will be very different agents in the face of all  
questions of phi-  
losophy, citizenship, finance, and industry.

702. Criticism. Criticism is the examination and  
test of prop-  
ositions^ of any kind which are offered for  
acceptance, in order  
to find out whether they correspond to reality  
or not. The

<sup>1</sup> According to a German newspaper the parliament of Bavaria,  
in 1897, ex-  
pressed a wish that the government of that state would not  
appoint any more  
Darwinians to chairs in the universities of the kingdom.